

VERNAL Express

Single Copy 50¢

WEDNESDAY, June 30, 1999

Vernal, Utah 8

M/047/022

County claims to build roads for less

By Steven R. Wallis
Express Editor

Cost of constructing a road by Uintah County is about half of the cost in other counties throughout the state, but local contractor question the figures released by the County Road Department June 24.

The construction figures released by the county state that in conjunction with the Uintah Special Service District, the county has asphalted 546 miles, graveled 608 miles of road and placed native asphalt on 117 miles of road. Cost per mile is estimated at \$22,000 to \$25,000 for roads averaging 24 feet with 3 inches of material.

Figures from Emery County show their costs at \$60,000 per mile with \$32. a ton asphalt material. Wasatch County is \$63,000 to \$65,000 per mile and Carbon county averages \$65,000 per mile.

Contractor at Tuesday Uintah County meeting contended that the figures did not include all the costs.

Contractors urged the county to "get out of the road making business and into the road maintenance business."

They site examples of the Diamond Mountain Road failure and 500 East Project as reasons the county shouldn't be in the road construction business but should bid

out projects using fair bidding procedures already in the county's policy manual.

"If we have too, we will get a Grand Jury and the American Civil Liberties Union in here to investigate," said Browne Tomlinson about the what he sees as unfairly bidding practices.

Part of the problem, as seen by the contractors, is "no one know where the county stop and the Special Service District starts."

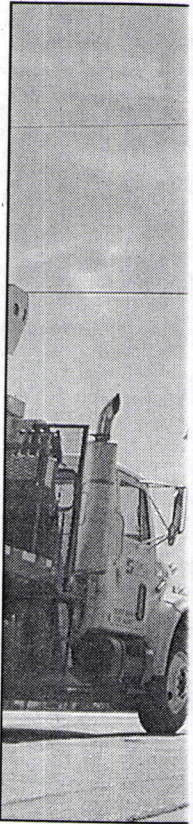
In the past, the Uintah County Road Department has contracted to build road for the Special Services District which received funding through Mineral Lease Money.

Lyle McKeachnie said he would like a lot more executive oversight by the county of the actions of the Special Service District and he sited the State Code which gave the county oversight of special service districts.

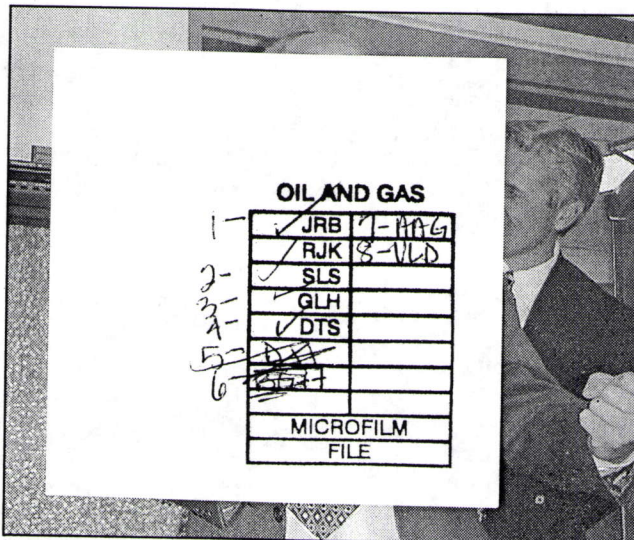
Commissioner Lloyd Swain said he has requested an accounting of all past projects by the county road department, but to date he has not received it. The commission expects the accounting to be available after July 1.

Commissioners said they needed to keep "an arms length" when dealing with the Special Service District. They urged those at the meeting to state their complaints to the Special Service District Board at its next meeting, July 7 at 7 p.m. at the Special Service District Office, 134 West Main.

"The road department needs to put all costs into building a road," said Tim Crow. "If that were done, it would be a lot more."



Flowers on Vernal's



"Why try to be what you are not, just have fun at what you are," recommends Channel 4 feature reporter, Craig Wirth, during the 50th Chamber anniversary meeting last week.

Extra-curricular

Flow

This year the nearly on Vernal's Main Street a turn for the worse, making a valiant come

Within a week of petunias, marigolds, other flowers in the p Haslem. flower proj for the Vernal Commerce Development Commi stunted growth and a the petunias. Further determined that the p